

**Legislative Testimony to the Human Services Committee
Regarding: HB 5355 Advanced Dental Hygiene Practice Pilot Program
Monday, March 1, 2010
Submitted by: Christel Autuori, RDH**

**Senator Doyle, Representative Walker and
Members of the Human Services Committee,**

My name is Christel Autuori. I am a registered dental hygienist practicing here in Connecticut.

The Forsyth Project Rotunda was a program in Massachusetts at the Forsyth Dental Hygiene School during the early 1970s. As one of the original participants in this program which taught registered dental hygienists to perform all phases of restorative dentistry, I urge you to pass this important bill to help provide access to dental care for the underserved. I have first hand knowledge that it can and will improve dental care for Connecticut residents.

I have asked my colleagues to share my testimony with you as I am currently using my skills in Honduras, while traveling with CapeCares.

We don't need pilot programs if we have a Masters level certification for already licensed dental hygienists in place. This was proven with The Forsyth Project Rotunda in the 1970's.

There was a crisis in access to dental care in the 1970s and it has grown exponentially in the ensuing three decades.

The creation of the ADHP in the state of Connecticut is an important step in the resolution of this crisis in access to dental care.

Connecticut led the nation almost one hundred years ago by being the first state to create the profession of dental hygiene, and it will lead the nation once again with the ADHP improving the dental health, and therefore, the general physical health of its citizens.

Thank you for taking the time to read my statement.

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